Dear Parent/Carer,

I am just emailing with an update on where we are with Transition as of today 9th June 2020.

Attached is an electronic copy, for your information, of the Penicuik High School Primary Transition Booklet.  The arrangements for this are:

1.      Strathesk PS/Cuiken PS – Booklet will be issued by primary staff when the students are in on the las week W/B 22nd June

2.      Sacred Heart PS – Booklets to be printed and issued to students by Primary Staff

3.      Cornbank PS – Booklets to be printed by PHS and posted direct to students. This will happen for W/B 15th June.

Our virtual tour, while showing on the Midlothian Council website, was uploaded before it was complete.  We are working hard to iron out the glitches and this should be finished by Thursday or Friday of this week.  We are currently adding location tags along with audio and visual content.

**From tomorrow S1 taster work will be available in the Primary Google Classrooms.**  We have agreed with our primary colleagues that this work will be available until the end of term and that students can dip in and out of this as suits in terms of time and ICT availability. There is  no obligation to complete everything and it is really to start to give an idea of what sort of things they may do as they start secondary and we are beginning to get to know them. A separate Google Classroom has been created for non-cluster students and they have been sent an invitation to join the classroom.

We are currently extremely busy “Recovery Planning” – preparing for re-opening in August.  You will understand that this is a very complicated process and that school, for some time to come, will look very different to what we are used to.  As soon as we have details about classes, timetable etc will send the information to you.

We did want to give one early piece of information.**When students return in August, for the first spell, we will be asking that they come in their own clothes and not in school uniform.**Under advice from the authority on hygiene practices we have been advised that students should come in different clothing every day.  Many families may have a limited supply of school uniform and the practical issues of keeping up with daily washing and drying of clothes through a dreich Scottish Autumn (we obviously don’t know the weather for for definite but should plan for all events) has the potential to cause additional strain on families.  To that end please do not buy school uniform until we can confirm our return to it in case your child grows out of it in the interim!

As always we will try to keep you up to date as much as we possibly can.

Kind regards,

Diane Burgess

Depute Headteacher